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if compatibility to an ink cartridge cannot be confirmed when the ink cartridge is mounted, the recording apparatus generate a caution and awaits input of a continuation instruction by a user to execute a subsequent print operation with the ink cartridge.

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cont*

6. (Amended) An ink jet recording apparatus comprising an ink jet recording head for receiving supply of ink from an ink cartridge provided with storage means storing data for determining compatibility to a recording apparatus, and control means for determining compatibility of ink based on the data in the storage means and executing print operation, comprising:

optimum drive condition storage means storing an optimum drive condition for an ink cartridge, compatibility of which can be confirmed;

setup range storage means storing normal setup range data for comparison with ink information in the storage means of an ink cartridge;

general-purpose drive condition storage means storing a general-purpose drive condition for making it possible to reliably print even with an ink cartridge, compatibility of which cannot be confirmed; and

a determination section which compares ink information read from the storage means of an ink cartridge with the normal setup range data, and executes printing using the optimum drive condition if the ink information is within the normal setup range, and executes printing using the general-purpose drive condition if the ink information is out of the normal setup range.

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14. (Amended) The ink jet recording apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the control means determines the compatibility of the mounted ink cartridge based on the data from the storage means when the mounted ink cartridge is to be replaced, and the control means outputs data for specifying that the mounted ink cartridge is compatible.

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15. (Amended) A method of determining compatibility of ink based on data stored in storage means of an ink cartridge for supplying ink to a recording head of an ink jet recording apparatus, the method comprising:

- generating a caution if compatibility to an ink cartridge cannot be confirmed when the ink cartridge is mounted; and
- awaiting input of a continuation instruction by a user to execute a subsequent printing operation.

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17. (Amended) A method of controlling an ink jet recording apparatus comprising an ink jet recording head for receiving supply of ink from an ink cartridge provided with storage means storing data for determining compatibility to a recording apparatus, the method comprising:

- comparing ink information read from the storage means with normal setup range data;
- executing print operation using optimum drive condition if the ink information is within the normal setup range; and
- executing print operation using general-purpose drive condition if the ink information contains information out of the normal setup range.